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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) In a harvesting machine having a frame adapted for movement over the ground, the frame having a front end, an opposing rear end, and an operator's platform, an elongate crop harvesting header having a first end and a second opposing end, the first and second ends defining the length of the elongate header, the header supported at first and second support points, intermediate the first and second ends, by the frame across the front end of the frame for generally vertical movement relative to the ground, the improvement comprising:

a header lift and flotation system interconnecting the header and the frame for selectively raising and lowering the header relative to the ground and setting flotation parameters, the header lift and flotation system including:

left and right hand hydraulic cylinders interconnecting the frame and the header adjacent the respective first and second support points;

a hydraulic fluid reservoir;

substantially independent left and right hand electro-hydraulic circuits, each circuit including an independent hydraulic pump and at least one valve valves operated by electrical signals, interconnecting the hydraulic fluid reservoir and the respective left and right hand hydraulic cylinders;

left and right hand manually manipulated switches;

an electronic programmable controller interconnecting the switches and the valves such that independent manipulation of the switches causes the controller to emit electrical signals to the valves to establish independent flotation and lift settings, therefor.

2. (currently amended) The improvement of claim 1, wherein:

each left and right electro-hydraulic circuit further includes ~~an hydraulic pump~~ and hydraulic accumulator.

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3. (original) The improvement of Claim 2, wherein:  
the switches are located on the operator's platform.
4. (original) The improvement of claim 3, wherein:  
the switches are rocker switches.
5. (original) The improvement of claim 4, wherein:  
each of the left and right hand switches has a first position that signals the controller to allow hydraulic oil to enter the respective accumulator to reduce header contact force with the ground.
6. (original) The improvement of claim 5, wherein:  
each of the left and right hand switches has a second position that signals the controller to allow hydraulic oil to exit the respective accumulator to increase header contact force with the ground.
7. (original) The improvement of claim 6, wherein  
the left and right hand switches operate independently of each other.
8. (currently amended) In a harvesting machine having a frame adapted for movement over the ground, the frame having a front end, an opposing rear end, and an operator's platform, an elongate crop harvesting header having a first end and a second opposing end, the first and second ends defining the length of the elongate header, the header supported at first and second support points, intermediate the first and second ends, by the frame across the front end of the frame for generally vertical movement relative to the ground, the improvement comprising:  
a header lift and flotation system interconnecting the header and the frame for selectively raising and lowering the header relative to the ground and setting flotation parameters, the header lift and flotation system including:  
left and right hand hydraulic cylinders interconnecting the frame and the header adjacent the respective first and second support points;  
a hydraulic fluid reservoir;  
substantially independent left and right hand electro-hydraulic circuits, each

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circuit including an independent hydraulic pump and at least one valve valves operated by electrical signals, interconnecting the hydraulic fluid reservoir and the respective left and right hand hydraulic cylinders;

left and right hand manually manipulated switches;

an electronic programmable controller interconnecting the switches and the valves such that independent manipulation of the switches causes the controller to emit electrical signals to the valves to establish independent flotation and lift settings for the left and right hand hydraulic cylinders.

9. (currently amended) The improvement of claim 8, wherein:

each left and right electro-hydraulic circuit further includes an hydraulic pump and hydraulic accumulator.

10. (original) The improvement of Claim 9, wherein:

the switches are located on the operator's platform and are rocker-type switches.

11. (original) The improvement of claim 10, wherein:

each of the left and right hand switches has a first position that signals the controller to allow hydraulic oil to enter the respective accumulator to reduce header contact force with the ground, and

each of the left and right hand switches has a second position that signals the controller to allow hydraulic oil to exit the respective accumulator to increase header contact force with the ground.

12. (original) The improvement of claim 11 wherein:

the left and right hand switches operate independently of each other.

13. (currently amended) A crop harvesting machine comprising:

a self-propelled frame adapted for movement over the ground, the frame having a front end, an opposing rear end;

an operator's platform affixed to and supported by the frame;

an elongate crop harvesting header having a first end and a second opposing

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end, the first and second ends defining the length of the elongate header, the header supported at first and second support points, intermediate the first and second ends, by the frame across the front end of the frame for generally vertical movement relative to the ground;

a header lift and flotation system interconnecting the header and the frame for selectively raising and lowering the header relative to the ground and setting flotation parameters, the header lift and flotation system including:

left and right hand hydraulic cylinders interconnecting the frame and the header adjacent the respective first and second support points;

a hydraulic fluid reservoir;

substantially independent left and right hand electro-hydraulic circuits, each circuit including an independent hydraulic pump and at least one valve valves operated by electrical signals, interconnecting the hydraulic fluid reservoir and the respective left and right hand hydraulic cylinders;

left and right hand manually manipulated switches; and

an electronic programmable controller interconnecting the switches and the valves such that independent manipulation of the switches causes the controller to emit electrical signals to the valves to establish independent flotation and lift settings for the left and right hand hydraulic cylinders.

14. (currently amended) The crop harvesting machine of claim 13, wherein:

each left and right electro-hydraulic circuit further includes an hydraulic pump and single hydraulic accumulator.

15. (original) The improvement of Claim 14, wherein:

the switches are located on the operator's platform.

16. (original) The improvement of claim 13, wherein:

the switches are rocker switches;

each of the left and right hand switches has a first position that signals the controller to allow hydraulic oil to enter the respective accumulator to reduce header contact force with the ground; and

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each of the left and right hand switches has a second position that signals the controller to allow hydraulic oil to exit the respective accumulator to increase header contact force with the ground.

17. (original) The improvement of claim 16, wherein  
the left and right hand switches operate independently of each other.

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